

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification at the top of page 1, as follows:

Docket No. 1430/103

WELDING TORCH STRIKER WITH SAFETY STOPPER

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to co-owned, co-pending U.S. application Serial Number 10/735,175, filed December 12, 2003, that claims priority to co-owned U.S. provisional application Serial Number 60/438,834, filed January 9, 2003.

~~TECHNICAL FIELD~~

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] This invention relates generally to safety improvements in hand tools that construction workers carry on their belt for use on a construction site.

~~BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION~~

Please amend the specification at paragraph 0026, as filed, as follows:

FIGS. 3 and 4 (both prior art) show a front and side view of a Pearson model 2001 striker.

Please amend the specification at paragraph 0047, as follows:

FIG. 25 is a side view of part of striker 40, with a partial cross section view across C-C of FIG. 22 (of the proximate end of safety stopper 90).

Please amend the specification by adding the following four paragraphs, immediately following paragraph 0050 as filed, as follows:

FIG. 29 is a front view of a seventh embodiment of a safety stopper including a single rigid plate tack-welded to one of the two arms.

FIG. 30 is a section view across A-A of FIG. 29.

FIG. 31 is a section view across B-B of FIG. 29.

FIG. 32 is a side view of part of striker 40, showing a partial cross section view of the proximate end of safety stopper 110 across C-C of FIG. 29.

Please amend the specification by renumbering and amending paragraphs 0051 and 0052, as filed, as follows:

FIG. 29 33 is a front view of a first preferred embodiment of a welding torch striker with an integral safety stopper in the form of a molded rubber web.

FIG. ~~30~~ 34 is a side view of the welding torch striker of FIG. 29 33.

Please amend the specification by amending paragraph 0071, as filed, as follows:

The front face of safety stopper 80, ~~including essentially the front face exposed part of plate 81, and the exposed parts of attached front pouches, have~~ has a smooth, tough outer face.

Plate 81 is made of a rigid, non-flammable, heat-resistant material such as a molded thermo-setting plastic material.

Please amend the specification by amending paragraphs 0077-0078, as filed, as follows:

A seventh embodiment of the safety stopper ~~(not shown)~~ (safety stopper 110 shown in FIGS. 29-32) is a rigid metallic ~~cover plate 111, shaped like cover 91 of FIG. 22, having an overlapping portion 118~~ in sliding, overlapping relationship to ~~the first swinging arm 99;~~ the first swinging arm 99; ~~and Plate 111 is tack-welded by tack welds 114 to the second arm 119.~~

A first embodiment of a welding torch striker with an integral safety stopper is shown in FIGS. 29 33 and 30 34. Welding torch striker with integral safety stopper 110 120 includes U-shaped spring handle 111 121. Spring handle 111 121 defines a first arm 112 122 with a first push-tab 113 123 and a second arm 114 124 with a second push-tab 115 125. The arms are formed of one piece defining bend 116 126 at the proximal end of the striker. Strike plate 117 127 is mounted to the distal end of first arm 112 122. Flint 118 128 is mounted to the distal end of second arm 114 124. U-shaped spring handle 111 121 and strike plate 117 127 define an open area between the first and second arms. Integral safety stopper 120 130 is formed as a web 121 131 extending between a first handle-grip 122 132 surrounding a portion of first arm 112 122, including first push-tab 113 123, and a second handle-grip 123 133 surrounding a portion of the second arm 114 124 including second push-tab 115 125. Web 121 131 is approximately 3/32 inch thick, and the adjoining material surrounding a portion of first arm 112 122, and surrounding a portion of the second arm 114 124 is also approximately 3/32 inch thick. Web 121 131 has a tough outer face configured to cover a substantial portion of open area 124 134.

When an operator is carrying the striker hands-free with the striker attached to the operator's belt, the elongated cover reduces the chances of the striker catching on an external object.

A first preferred embodiment of a welding torch striker with an integral safety stopper includes three pouches (not shown in FIGS. 29 33 and 30 34). The three pouches are preferably formed integrally with the web from the same rubber material as the web. They may be formed by conventional injection molding techniques using a mold having a retractable part to form the inside of a pouch and to impress brand name or other identification into the surface of the web. Unlike the leather pouches described above, the rubber pouches of the first preferred embodiment do not need flaps. They rely on the resilience of the rubber material to hold the spare flints cartridge and other accessories in place.

Alternatively, embodiments of welding torch strikers that have an integral safety stopper, shown in FIGS. 29 33 and 30 34, may include stitched-on pouches made of leather of the types described above.

SUMMARY

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Consideration of the application and issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition for extension of time is being made to provide for the possibility that the need for a petition for an extension of time has been overlooked.

If additional fees are required for the timely consideration of this application, please charge deposit account no. 12-0914.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

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